All Party Meeting on Reservation Issue

4286. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments had convened an all party meeting to consider the reservation issue in which the Supreme Court had fixed a ceiling of 50 per cent in the Mandal case;

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at this meeting; and

(c) the follow up action being taken by Government and whether it is proposed to amend the Constitution to give effect to the reservation issue?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Welfare Minister took a meeting with leaders of Political Parties on 14.1.95 to discuss the issue arising out of the Supreme Court judgement in the Mandal Case, pertaining to reservation policy, which inter-alia include the issue to amend the constitution to provide reservation in excess of 50 per cent.

In view of the schedule of elections already announced in some of the State it was decided in this meeting, in deference to the Model Code of Conduct to defer the policy issues pertaining to reservation. The issues that were discussed in this meeting pertain to provision of age relaxation and additional number of chances to Other Backward Class candidates.

In view of the concensus arrived at in this meeting the Government on 25.1.95 have relaxed upper age limit for direct recruitment by three years in respect of Other Backward Classes. The number of attempts permissible to Other Backward Class candidates, if otherwise found eligible, shall be seven in Civil Services examination.

The Welfare Minister is again proposing to hold another meeting with leaders of political parties on 28th April, 1995 to discuss the issues pertaining to reservation.

Employment of Blind Persons

4287. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blind persons empolyed in Group A and B posts in Government services;

(b) what is the shortfall in Group C and D posts against reserved quota for physically handicapped; and

(c) what steps are being taken to fill up these posts and by when?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) There is no reservation for the physically handicapped persons in groups 'A' and 'B' posts in Central Ministries|Departments|Public Sector Undertakings. The information on the number of blind persons employed in groups 'A' and 'B' in government service is, theerfore, not maintained.

(b) and (c) As per information available, the backlog of reserved vacancies for the physically handicapped persons in the various Ministries|Departments|Public Sector Undertakings as on 1.1.95 is 918 in group 'C' and 512 in group 'D'. The vacancies are notified by the concerned Ministries|Departments|Public Sector Undertakings to the Employment Exchanges and Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for being filled up. The vacancies are filled up by the Staff Selection Commission, Banking Recruitment Board etc. through advertisement in leading newspapers. Special recruitment drives are also conducted from time to time to fill up the backlog of reserved vacancies. Three such recruitment drives have been conducted so far. Another drive is being undertaken for filling up the vacancies in group 'D' posts for visually handicapped persons by the Ministry of Welfare through the National Institute